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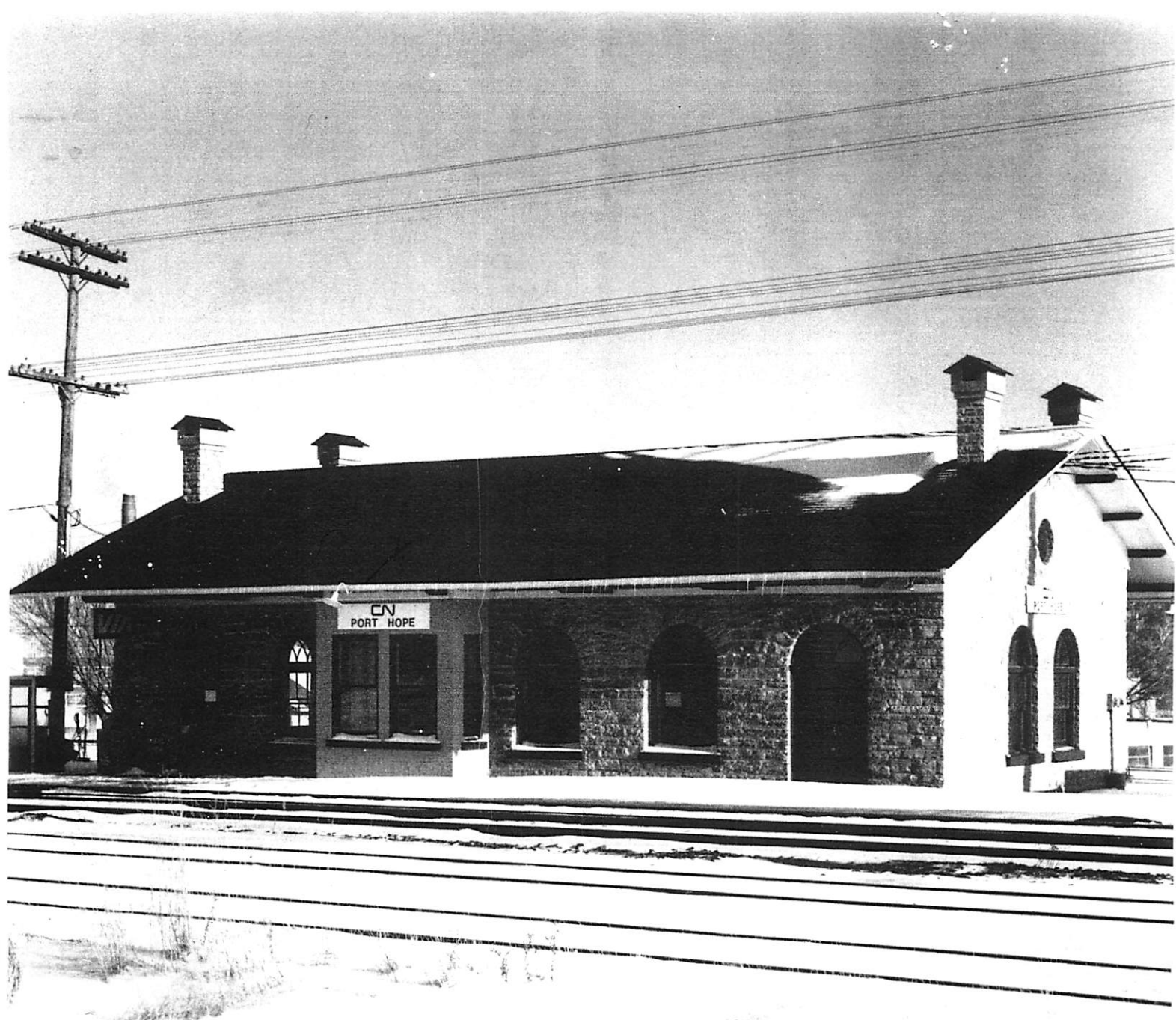
ACORN



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The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc. Newsletter

Spring 1986



A C O R N XI - 1

Spring 1986

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.
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A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

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EDITORIAL

We've Moved!

Most members of Council are going to miss 191 College Street. It was an easy address to reach even in the rush hour. And if you got there a few moments after five, you could even have a free place to park.

The long, wide table gave writing space for most of us, and the late comers sat on the large sofa or in arm chairs on the perimeter. We made a lot of decisions around that table, with some meetings going on to eight o'clock. We heard news from the branches of successful work accomplished: buildings saved, house tours given, revolving funds set up, historical and architectural walks participated in, and bus tours given. Help was also extended to towns where there was no A.C.O. branch. Sanford Fleming, L.L.D., C.M.C. founder of the Canadian Institute from which we rented our room, looked down on us from his portrait, in company with Alan Macdougall, Esq., George Kennedy, M.A., L.L.D., K.C., Captain J.H. Lefroy, R.A., F.R.S., Sir William Logan, Knt., First President Canadian Institute, plus an unknown Indian.

The move to 720 Spadina Avenue is considered an interim one.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Team work and good communications are essential to the success of the A.C.O.'s future. The A.C.O. can be commended on having strong and dedicated teams in the Ontario Council and the branches. Communication is vital to weld the energy of these teams together. The result will be an A.C.O. with increasing influence and respect in the province. My particular endeavour in this first year of my presidency will be to enhance communications between the Ontario Council and the branches, and related groups such as the L.A.C.A.C.s.

Every first Thursday of the month members of the Ontario Council and representatives from the branches meet. These are vigorous and productive meetings. Immediate and long term issues are considered. All members of the Council have special responsibilities including:

Wentworth Walker who is putting into place a major drive to establish a revolving fund of up to \$250,000 to assist conservation projects within and outside the branches.

William Moffet who is preparing a series of new articles for ACORN entitled "Practical Conservation."

Donna Baker who is assisting the Hamilton branch in organizing the annual general meeting at Hamilton this spring.

Douglas McPhie, our treasurer, who is preparing a financial strategy for the Ontario Council, to make possible an expanded range of activities.

Peter John Stokes who in addition to his many services on behalf of the A.C.O. is preparing a new series of articles for ACORN on the "Building Styles of Ontario."

A. K. Sculthorpe, *Peter John Stokes* and *Howard Walker* who are meeting with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture to explore ways of forging an expanded and closer working relationship between the A.C.O. and L.A.C.A.C.s.

John MacFarland who is directing a successful campaign committee in raising donations from corporations, businesses and individuals for the A.C.O.

Marion Walker Garland who is our excellent editor-in-chief of ACORN.

Elizabeth Dashwood who is the secretary of the Ontario Council, prepares minutes of the monthly meetings.

These are just some of the activities being handled by your team at the Ontario Council. The future is an exciting one for the A.C.O.

Nicholas Hill

QUINTE REGION

We have to report a failure by A.C.O. and an abysmal performance by LACAC, on the occasion of the explosion and subsequent demolition of Castle Villeneuve at Picton. LACAC allowed itself to be beguiled by the plea that each day the ruin remained standing added to the burden on the owners. Though it had voted designation a year or two ago at the request of these same owners, and the Castle was indeed of the highest importance to Picton, LACAC could come up with nothing better than immediate demolition.

If it had been Mount Vernon or Westminster Hall, means would have been found to mend the damage. The building was not burned, but eighty percent of it was strewn about, all but the stone-built ballroom. This marvellously well-proportioned room was added to the earlier hodge-podge about 1860. Relatively tall for its length, and buttressed by two stone bays, the ballroom behaved like many Gothic church towers in the Blitz, and stood firm. The windows blew out, frames and all in some cases - some of the upper ones taking a few loose stones with them, but the basement ones slipping out without damage. The stonework beneath a french door was shattered, but the foundations that carried heavy weight remained uncracked.

The ceiling must have sustained a great wallop, but the plaster did not even fall, except for a patch or two that were blown or sucked out.



Castle Villeneuve before demolition.

PJS photo

The sensible thing - if we had really cared - would have been to let the rest of the building go and to plywood-up the ballroom and install auxiliary heating the very next morning after the blast. Castle Villeneuve had been neglected or abandoned for years in the past, and the ballroom still stood quite handsomely: why shouldn't it now? And Philip Low, if

he had lived long enough, might himself have demolished the earlier parts of his house and added a grander structure to his new ballroom.

Villeneuve was the home of Philip Low, Picton's first mayor, and his ballroom, the handsomest room in the County, would have been a great place to celebrate Picton's Sesquicentennial next year. But Picton has a poor preservation record. That same first mayor had his office in a smallish, upright building of the 1830s that formed a familiar visual 'stopper' to the end of the main street at the top of the town hill. It was torn down in 1969 and replaced with an unworthy one-storey doctor's office of white bathroom brick.

The Prince Edward County LACAC has a poor record, too. It is county-wide, with a member from each of the municipalities. So it does not intimately represent any one place. Moreover, it has not had to do much for itself. Its first mandate, to acquaint itself and the public with the County's stock of buildings, was already pre-empted by the Museum Board's HASPE project, which culminated partly in "The Settler's Dream" by Cruickshank and Stokes. But the Museum Board have not seen fit to release the main body of the HASPE project (Historical Architectural Survey of Prince Edward) for its proper use, and the LACAC have been discouraged from meeting often (after all, the members are paid an indemnity plus travelling expenses) except to vote when the County administrator happens to have a back-log of requests for designation.

We have to think, could our Conservancy Branch have saved the Castle Villeneuve ballroom? If we had had the money and the nerve, we could have purchased the property right after the explosion, demolished the ruined part, boarded up the ballroom, and awaited developments. If the structure had fallen down, nearly everyone would have been pleased, for we are led to believe that the whole of Picton is more valuable as empty, unencumbered lots, and we might even have made a profit by selling the bare ground. If the stonework had stood, and we had held on, we might eventually have found a buyer who would care to add a modern restaurant or guest home onto this highly picturesque remnant.

Our A.C.O. Branch did indeed stick its neck out, three years ago, to make a down-payment on the McIntosh-Ridley house in Belleville, and staved off demolition till a buyer was found. We even got our money back on that deal. But our Heritage Fund seemed entirely too small for the Villeneuve problem, and all we have bought on this occasion is a series of photographs to accompany Peter Stokes' notes following the blast. So our Branch needs to raise money - maybe through tours or visitations, maybe through outright donations, maybe through an application to Ontario's BRIC fund's

Community Heritage development scheme. Maybe also we increase our leverage by asking our members to sign notes, renewable year by year, that would serve to secure bank loans. For it is idiotic to wait for 'The Government' to do 'something', and one cannot expect to have a say in the fate of a building one does not own.

In Belleville, the City council are considering various proposals for increasing their office space. They are justly proud of their tower, and want to show it off to best advantage. They think of demolishing the buildings across the street, so that the City Hall would be set in a riverside park, and perhaps extending the Hall with offices behind, occupying part of the Market Square: the Market would then move to the Sports Centre up near Highway 401 on the assumption that most people come to market by automobile anyway.

We think that Belleville's City Hall - built as a market building in the 1870's - would indeed look grand set all by itself in a park - a great monument to the bustling days when it was designed. But after reading Jane Jacobs and looking about a little for ourselves we offer the following observations.

The former Cablevue building across Front St. was built in Belleville's confident days, just before the Market Building itself. Its ground-floor arcade, covered over in late years, is as handsome as that so effectively reclaimed and dramatized now on Dinkel's restaurant on Bridge Street. We think it could be renovated for city offices and perhaps other uses.

The Market Tower is a truly admirable landmark, the finest thing of its kind in Canada next to the Peace Tower. It ought to remain un-obscured as a mark of civic pride, a symbol that here business is transacted, here important decisions are taken by the representatives of all the citizens. But Belleville's tower doesn't need an open plaza to show it off. As long as too-massive structures are not placed nearby it will always rise serenely, like some medieval cathedral, out of a busy jumble of lesser buildings.

The windy plazas that were made to surround great office towers of the 1960's set off the towers to good advantage from a pictorial standpoint but were of no practical use unless as spaces for marshalling a civic insurrection. People naturally gravitate to cosier spaces to meet and mix and do business. A gap in the street-line is apt to look unsafe and threatening. Merchants know that people may not feel inclined even to walk past a few empty stores to see what lies beyond, and property values go down and business suffers.

The Market Building (or City Hall) itself has been given a thin time of it during the past half century. It is on the way to becoming a mere office building and little more. First the public meeting hall upstairs, then the public market area downstairs, were taken over for offices - for expediency's sake. The earlier market building with hall above, that stood behind in the Market Square, went the same way, being taken for police offices and then torn down when the police outgrew it.

Except when the workers are arriving and leaving, or unless the public are bustling in and out to do business, a

mere office building is a dead and threatening thing, amounting to an empty space on the street. The heart of a city needs shops, residences, meeting places, schools, places of worship, entertainments, as well as monuments - whatever keeps people happily, safely, and profitably moving about at all hours and every day of the year.

This, then, is a plea for retaining the Market where it is; making use of the handsome structures remaining in the area, and filling in any gaps with attractive and useful buildings; and perhaps restoring some of its original function to the Market Building - City Hall itself.

PORT HOPE

Restored Grand Trunk Station

In 1979, when Canadian National Railways announced its plans to tear down Port Hope's 1856 limestone Grand Trunk Railway station to replace it with a modern metal and glass shelter, a rallying of local architectural conservationists was immediately precipitated. The station, which was still in use, had ceilings which were falling down, a leaky roof, and crumbling limestone exterior walls.

Fortunately for the citizens of Port Hope, the C.N.R. reacted favourably to the ideas of restoration put forth in 1981 by the local branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and 1982 saw the beginning of comprehensive restoration plans. It was decided that the building would be restored to appear as it did in 1881 - 1880s wainscoting having been discovered under the interior wallboard by the project engineer, Alan Zeegen. The local A.C.O. branch was joined in the project by Canadian National Railways, Via Rail, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Now, three years later, in its pleasantly restored state (refinished maple flooring, a Victorian lighting fixture hanging from the ceiling, new woodwork of the period and handsome 1880s paint colours), it provides cosy shelter for passengers using Via Rail's Toronto/Montreal train service. It should be noted here that particular pains were taken by Bill James of Toronto, who did the impressive stonework repairs including the replacement of two walls with sandstone quarried in Quebec.

The official opening of the restored station took place on the chilly morning of December 7th, 1985, when Mrs. A.K. Sculthorpe welcomed the large turnout of Port Hope residents, visiting dignitaries and out-of-town guests. Guests for the occasion included: the Hon. Lily Munro, Ontario Minister for Citizenship and Culture, Mayor William Wyatt, the Hon. Allan Lawrence, M.P., Howard Sheppard, M.P.P., Russell Cooper of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and J.D. Sturgess, a C.N. vice-president. Also present were Project Engineer Alan Zeegen, architects Alson Fisher and Peter J. Stokes, and Bill James, who did the stonework. Light refreshments accompanied the opening ceremonies at the station, and a luncheon followed for guests and A.C.O. members at the

home of Bob and Nancy Fair.

There are now five stops a day at the Port Hope railway station - Via added a new eastbound stop last October -which makes it possible for dozens of commuters to head for Oshawa and Toronto daily and return in time for supper.

Despite the \$204,000 overall cost of the restoration project, it is felt that Via Rail remains committed to the idea of restoring similar stations turned over to it by C.N. and C.P., where community help is forthcoming on such projects.

Moving House!

An interesting spectacle took place in mid-November on Port Hope's John Street when an 1840s three-bay Georgian townhouse took up residence at No. 27. Purchased by Clay Benson about three years ago, the house, in its derelict state on the corner of John and Augusta Streets, was slated for demolition by the Town of Port Hope. But, thanks to the co-operation of the town administrators, Mr. Benson was given time to have the structure designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. At this time, the frame house stood on its disintegrating foundation just half a block away from salvation. Down the street on John Street was an old



Photo by Frank Geofreda

foundation on a deep and narrow lot beside the newly-restored Midland House. By building up the old foundation on John Street, the lot became an ideal spot for Mr. Benson's rather tall and narrow, two-and-a-half storey house to stand. Moving smoothly but slowly (half a block in three hours) on dollies, the house was moved by truck to its new location, its deteriorating sill beams having been replaced earlier at the old site.

Nestled in as it now is with other designated buildings of approximately the same period, the house will be restored by Mr. Benson for residential and commercial use, in keeping with the zoning requirements of the new site. In the meantime, Port Hope residents watch with interest the further enhancement of John Street.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting will take place on Heritage

Day, February 17th, at the Greenwood Tower Inn. Peter John Stokes will be speaking about points of interest in the Greenwood Tower building, and Mr. Bob Sanderson will be presented with the 1986 Heritage Award on this occasion.

DURHAM

An 1812 house standing on the North side of Highway 2 on the western edge of Whitby faces the prospect of being moved to a new site. Not because the land is needed for something else - it stands by itself on 88 acres of vacant land which has been listed for sale for many years.

So why does Lynde House need to be moved? The Durham Branch of the ACO has been asking that question ever since the Whitby Historical Society decided last summer to engage in negotiations with Cullen Gardens, a local tourist attraction, to have the building which houses the Whitby Museum relocated there.

Lynde House was built in 1812 by Jabez Lynde an American immigrant from New York State who came to the Whitby area in 1804. Not a great deal of documentation exists, but we do know that Lynde had tavern licences from 1811 to 1819. He participated in the War of 1812 as a despatch rider, as a supplier of goods to the commissary, and provided billet for troops. Indeed there is a personal recollection by Lynde's eldest daughter, Clarissa, that Gen. Brock visited them.

The house is a remarkable structure. A two storey, timber frame Georgian house, the County Atlas (1877) says "that when the house was built, it was considered the best dwelling between Toronto and Kingston." Peter Stokes visited the site in 1971 along with Verschoyle Blake as part of a survey of old buildings in the area for the National Historic sites and Monuments Board. Stokes' report notes the "complexity of delicate profiles" of the interior mouldings and he describes one of the fireplaces as "as fine an example as seen anywhere of early 19th century detail". One of the enigmas of the building is where Lynde got the money to build such a fine house.

The house remained in the Lynde family until the 1890s. It passed through several hands in the early part of this century and in the 1930s was acquired by Pickering Farms which eventually became a subsidiary of the giant Loblaw's conglomerate.

In 1972, Loblaw's planned to build a shopping plaza on the site and offered the house to the Historical Society on the condition that they would move it within a year. The Historical Society opened the house as a Museum and began to raise funds and look for a new site. However, Loblaw's plans were eventually dropped and the urgency to move the house disappeared.

Over the years all contact between Loblaw's and the Historical Society was lost and indeed was discouraged by the Town's administration using the argument to "let sleeping dogs lie". Most of the property has been zoned for residential development; however, the corner where Lynde House sits has a commercial zoning and is the only piece with much value. The property is low-lying and there is inadequate sewer capacity to service it. The property has been

listed for sale for more than ten years.

The Museum has suffered from the same problems as most small community museums, namely, inadequate funds, lack of professional management, lack of clear direction and inadequate community support. Added to this was a stand-offish attitude of the municipal administration, and an inability to access capital funds because it didn't own (or even have a lease) for its site.

When the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture brought in its standards for Community Museums in the early 80s, the need for clear title to the property in order to get capital grants became acute. The Federal government also refused to allow further student grants until it had better assurances about the building's future. The Historical Society wanted Lynde House to stay on its original site and in 1982 asked the Town to assist in negotiating with Loblaws. No dice!

Finally last summer, the Historical Society Executive received an offer from Cullen Gardens/Miniature Village, a local tourist attraction, to relocate the House there. It would be part of a row of buildings most of them commercial shops. Cullen was offering at most a thirty year lease on a property just a few feet bigger than the house. The Historical Society would continue to operate the Museum. Under pressure from a local Councillor, the Executive agreed to negotiate.

The Durham Branch of the ACO with the support of many members of the Historical Society has taken the position that since no effort has ever been made to purchase its present site, any consideration of moving it is premature and even if it becomes necessary to move it, the site offered by Cullen is entirely inadequate. The Durham ACO sponsored a public meeting at which it presented a cost analysis which showed that the increased operating costs at Cullen Gardens would more than offset any advantages of the location. At the time this is written (early February), the ACO and members of the Historical Society have stalled the move and have forced their Executive to look into some of the alternatives.

The Ministry of Citizenship and Culture has been privately supportive of our position but has been unwilling to take any concrete action, preferring to wait for the Historical Society to come to them.

The Durham ACO believes that Lynde House is not just another heritage building to be moved without a second thought - it is one of the oldest buildings on the N shore of Lake Ontario (perhaps the oldest between Toronto and the Bay of Quinte); it is a very finely crafted building (and remarkably well preserved considering its age); and it is part of the history not just of Whitby but of Ontario as a whole. It deserves to remain on its original site.

The Durham ACO sponsored a contest at Christmas for the best decorations in the traditional manner. Although we got relatively little attention on this in our first year, our winners were pleasantly surprised and we have every intention of repeating it every year.

We have also begun plans for our second fall house tour to be held on Sept. 20.

The Durham ACO is still very young and was formed

primarily by a group of interested people in Whitby. It is, however, planning to become more involved in other parts of the Regional Municipality. We would very much like to make contact with interested people in other communities (Oshawa, Bowmanville, Port Perry, Uxbridge, Ajax, Pickering, etc.)

TORONTO REGION

When John Sewell found that due to a debate at City Hall he would be unable to speak at our October 1985 meeting the breach was filled most ably by Mary Byers and Margaret McBurney. Although they were hard at work writing their fourth book and had decided not to accept any speaking engagements until it was ready for publication, they kindly made an exception for our group. Their lecture included information and slides collected for their three published books **Rural Roots: Pre-confederation Buildings of the York Region of Ontario**, published in 1976, **Homesteads: Early Buildings and Families from Kingston to Toronto**, published three years later in 1979, and **The Governor's Road: Early Buildings and Families from Mississauga to London**, published in 1982. The lecture kindled anew our interest and we look forward to their new book which will explore Ontario's early inns and taverns.

In November William Dendy proved once again why he is such a popular speaker with members of the Conservancy when he gave a stimulating talk on his new book **Toronto Observed**. All were disappointed that due to a delay in publication no copies were available to be signed.

At the January meeting John Sewell gave some very sound advice in his lecture **Strategies for Saving Old Buildings**. He traced the history of conservation in Toronto and concluded that much has been achieved during the past fifteen years. At the start there was active resistance. Now there is greater readiness to listen and sometimes to act. Mr. Sewell suggested that demolition provisions for homes should be extended to commercial buildings. No building should be torn down until a permit is issued for a new one. He also feels that the onus should be shifted from the old to the new. One should ask for good reasons why the old building should be taken down rather than accept the attitude "let's make way for the new". Mr. Sewell also feels that a new group is needed to make the necessary changes and must be willing to work **with** the politicians. Members of the new group should include young architects, others who are interested in saving buildings, and those who are concerned with the environment..

Exhibitions

The Market Gallery of City of Toronto Archives, located at South St. Lawrence Market, 95 Front St. East has many interesting architectural exhibitions. A recent one **Meeting Places: Toronto's City Halls** marked the 20th anniversary of Toronto's new City Hall. Archi-

ectural drawings, photographs, construction records, newspaper clippings and rare artifacts from the City's own collections and from other archival sources (including building fragments and furnishings) were used to document the architectural cultural and political history of City Hall. Guest curators were Douglas Richardson, long-time member of the Conservancy and Associate Professor in U. of T.'s Fine Art Department, and Stephen Otto, also a member of A.C.O. and an active participant in conservation programmes across Ontario.

The current exhibition **The Thirties: A Photo Legacy from the Globe and Mail** will be at the gallery until May 4th. It documents significant political and social events, including the construction of landmark buildings.

Renovations

The City's Planning Department has recommended buying the historic Palais Royale Music Hall at Sunnyside Beach for \$82,500 for recreational or community use. The building sits on city land but the structure itself is owned by Palais Royal Ltd.

The Wesley Building at 299 Queen Street West is currently being renovated by its new owners, City-TV. Built in 1913 to the designs of Burke, Horwood and White, it is an outstanding survivor of the vogue in terra-cotta construction. Summit Restoration is carefully cleaning the exterior. It is fortunate that the building meets the TV station's technical needs as well as its high public profile.

The old Woolworth Building at the north-west corner of Queen and Yonge Streets is being restored by Guaranty Realty-Karas Corps. to the plans proposed by Toronto architect Lloyd Alter. Its yellowish-red brick façade (buried since 1954 under a metal grill) is to be restored. The original owner, William McMaster, who founded MacMaster University in 1887 left the land the building sits on to his daughter Naomi Bilton, who stipulated that the land was never to be sold to the Eatons.

The Canadian Opera Company has finally found a home in the newly restored Opera Centre at 227 Front St. East (formerly the circa 1882 Standard Woolen Mills, with E. J. Lennox additions). The Toronto branch of the Conservancy is donating funds which will be used to buy a chair in this exciting development.

Two recent articles have emphasized the economic benefits of retaining and re-using buildings. Ron Soskolne, Vice-President of Planning and Development for Olympia and York said that in the case of Queen's Quay Terminal, renovation saved money by saving the time otherwise spent in new construction. Architect Andrew Clark, president of Market Block Historical Properties Ltd. says it costs \$25. to \$50. per square foot to renovate, depending on the building's condition -- about half of what it often requires to build a medium skyscraper.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Success Story

Anyone who knows Cambridge is familiar with the rows of Edwardian globe lights which line the streets of the stately old residential neighbourhoods of Galt. Although the turn-of-the-century cast iron standards were built to last, by the 1970s time had taken its toll of them and replacement supplies were dwindling. The City threatened to start removing the old standards from Blair Road. It looked as if another endangered species was on its way to extinction.



*Alderman Bob Wall, Mayor Claudette Millar, & H. C. President Alison Jackson with first replacement lamp standard!

Enter Alderman Bob Wall. He conducted a one-man, door to door survey of Blair Road residents and was gratified to find that the majority of them wanted the Edwardian lamp standards kept, even at extra cost to themselves. The City backed down. Heritage Cambridge now stepped in and began the long search for a solution to the problem, the culmination of which was a mold, manufactured by the Custom Aluminum Company of Cambridge, to produce exact replicas of the original design but in a durable aluminum alloy. In 1985 Alderman Wall, now a Heritage Cambridge director, had the satisfaction of seeing the first replica lamp standard emerge from the mold--only six of the original replacements were left at this point. It was thanks to the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation that Heritage

Cambridge was able to make the major financial contribution to this project. Any municipality in the region may use the mold free of charge. Both organizations will be recognized on a plaque on the standards.

Thanks are also due to the City of Cambridge for being flexible enough to change course. On November 6, 1985 Mayor Millar was present, along with Alderman Wall and Heritage Cambridge president Alison Jackson, when the first replica lamp standard used in Cambridge was hoisted into place at 3 Brant Road South. There are at present about 260 of these ornamental street lights in the City and now that they can be bred in captivity there is the possibility of a few more specimens being introduced.

The Battle To Save Preston Public School

This success story is not a new one, but is one which Heritage Cambridge felt should be published. In 1974, Preston Public School was slated for demolition to make way for a parking lot and play ground. On December 3, 1985, Heritage Cambridge held a general meeting in the ground floor activity room of the senior citizens' apartment complex which now occupies this fine, nineteenth century stone building. Our speaker was architect Gerry Musselman who fought to save the school and whose firm undertook the conversion. This publication is available for \$2.00 by writing to the Heritage Cambridge editor.

The 1967 Pollock Map of Galt

The fascination of this map is that, besides streets, it shows individual property boundaries with each block of land labelled with the name of the 1867 owner. The original is carefully preserved in the Ontario Archives and only displayed occasionally under controlled conditions. A colour transparency was made and from it Fabulous Forgeries of Ketch Harbour, Nova Scotia, produced hand-pulled lithographs, hand-coloured on hand-made paper. Old Galtonians (or anyone else) can obtain a copy by writing to the Heritage Cambridge editor. The reproduced map is approximately 22 inches by 30 inches and sells for \$50.00.

BRANT COUNTY

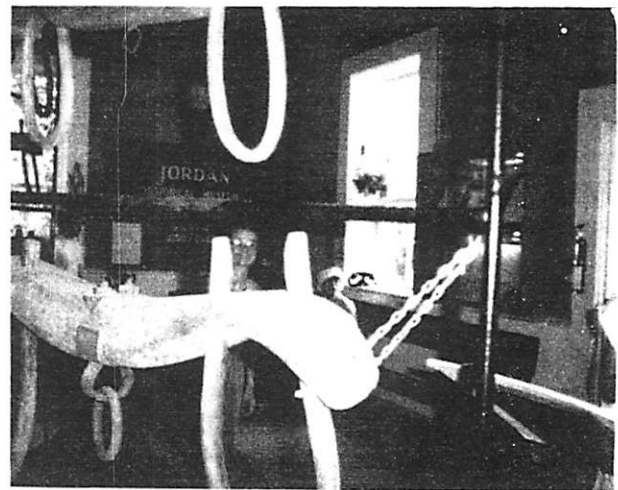
Bus Tour

The Brant County Branch hosted its annual Bus Tour in September 85 - this time to the museum at the Jordan and to Niagara on-the-Lake. At the former museum participants were impressed with the great cider press on the premises, the early switchboard and quilts, dolls dressed in the costume of the 1830's all at the Vintage house and the weaving looms at the older 1815 Fry house. The old schoolhouse's thick walls and huge windows were items of note, as were the agricultural implements within.



Vintage House

Peter Stokes was his usual interesting self in pointing out architectural and historical items of interest about the structures on and near the main street of Niagara-on-the-Lake. He and his wife Ann hosted the group for tea. Luncheon at the Pillar-and-Post was enjoyed by all.



Schoolhouse museum.

Further details about the buildings of Niagara-on-the-Lake were given by Mr. Stokes at the well-attended *Annual Meeting*. Mentioned in Mr. Stokes' talk was the Niagara Apothecary, restored with the assistance of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. The Carman house was also illustrated. Mr. Stokes' lecture highlighted the main street of Port Hope - built between 1841-1875. Here the St. Lawrence Hotel is fully restored on the exterior retaining its Italianate presence, circa 1853, while the Bank of Canada (1860) remains a landmark.

Mr. Stokes provided illustrations of good and bad examples of restoration in towns such as Perth, Guelph, Newburgh and Napanee. He outlined some *deficiencies* in

the Heritage Act and called for concerted action to have the act amended. He also outlined the lengthy procedure of inventory and evaluation necessary for the preservation of buildings. Such a procedure is being followed in Brant County under the direction of Audrey Scott.



Hamilton and Keachie buildings before demolition

In spite of the Conservancy's efforts, and those of the local L.A.C.A.C. under the chairmanship of Michael Keefe, two buildings on Colborne Street have been lost which formed a unique team in the annals of aesthetics and architecture in Brantford. One of these buildings, the former Bank of Hamilton at 171 Colborne, (sold to the Bank of Nova Scotia in 1944) was demolished in December 1985. The Conservancy Branch had attempted to save this building for more than seven years. The sad part of the story is that Aftech Engineering had proposed a scheme to the City which would have retained this fine specimen of Italianate architecture as part of a market-outdoor restaurant complex. (There are few places at present where food may be bought at reasonable rates in the downtown area by pedestrians.) The building's main storey, with a facing of Bedford stone, had the corner re-aligned in this century. A smoother brick finish encased the upper storeys, painted white in later years. Rounded windows in clearly-marked bays were highlighted by undulating keystones. A distinctive copper cornice added in 1908, with regular brackets, topped the structure. A main feature was the rounded corner unique in Brantford, and the scape of regular window placements along both streets (Market and Colborne) uniting both streets in a vision of commercial solidity. Erected by William Watt for Ebenezer Ray in 1870, the property served as a dry goods store before becoming a bank. It formed a harmonious front on Colborne with the neighbouring Keachie building or "big 22".

Originally a community centre of status, the Hamilton Building had a lodge room on the top floor. Walls and stairways were lined with marble mosaic worked into the floor. Egg-and-dart moulding defined the ceiling. The manager's room was resplendent in mahogany tile.

The Keachie Building next door to the bank was more elaborate in design and a foil for the simpler bank structure. Its foliate frieze, huge round-arched windows on the second upper level, with double orioles on the first, gave an open appearance to the façade and provided visual interest for the entire core area. Yet this building, as well as its neighbour, was demolished for a 6 storey office building without parking area which could well have been constructed elsewhere.

Also demolished in Brantford was 16 Wellington St., pictured in a previous "Acorn", a Brantford cottage with centre plan, side windows, Neo-Gothic gable and a Classical portico. The cottage of John Turner, architect of the Court House and distinguished buildings throughout southern Ontario, was also demolished. Both cottages will now play host to the automobiles of clients of the adjacent legal firm.

Arguments in favour of architectural preservation, even if thoroughly researched, thoroughly sensible, are counteracted often here in this locality by economic considerations; desire for increased density, and revenue from taxes or parking to serve clients, being the most common.

A Branch Project involving considerable research was a report to the Planning Board reiterating most of the concerns the Branch has voiced in the past in regard to older buildings and neighbourhoods. We quote from our report; "Many aspects of (the proposed new official plan) as so far presented sound encouraging, but we do have a number of questions based on our experiences in the past where our concerns about heritage have been expressed, but important street-scapes or buildings have been removed nevertheless....the density survey concerns us in case residential areas with heritage structures be downgraded with incompatible buildings in order to increase density. We have made representations concerning Dufferin Ave. in this regard."

"We note that Heritage Districts are to be encouraged. We have recommended a number of times that Colborne St. from Market to Brant Ave. be named as an Heritage District in hopes that restoration in this area be well-planned and consistent....we have submitted letters in regard to parking on Brant Ave. Many small businesses do not need a large



Colborne St. buildings

parking area, but "on paper" the requirements could mean demolition of heritage structures and a gap-toothed appearance to the streets....our concern respecting "new commercial development in appropriate areas" would be as to the location of the appropriate areas....even central areas have had trees destroyed for commercial development to be replaced by empty (or constantly changing) commercial rows.one of our concerns is that vagueness in the planning act will allow for loopholes and "escapes" in regard to heritage conservation, as it has in the past.We would appreciate clarification of the statement that "current policies", which to us have been negative to heritage preservation, will be "Reflected in community development." Our insistence continues that restoration is the best way to revitalize the core in order to attract tourists, as well as local citizens, to the core area."

The above report was part of a "Futures" project financed by the Ontario Government. Andrew Best, a young person with a background in Geography, worked for the branch from Sept. 18, 1985, to Jan. 3, 1986. He assisted with a variety of miscellaneous activities such as preparing mailings and copying resource material. A mailing to all candidates for civic office querying their stand on heritage was an example of this type of assistance. The main thrust of Andrew's work, however, was with recent files which required placing in chronological order, incorporating with past files, and, in short, being made useful. In addition, Andrew assisted with the county survey. Core evaluation sheets were updated after demolitions and changes were noted on property cards. Maps are then drawn up indicating the archaeological value of structures, streetsides, streetscapes, blocks and neighbourhoods.

With the "Futures" project, the Planning Board Report, and the Annual Meeting preceded by the Bus Tour, the Brant County Branch has had a busy fall and winter season. We hope that our work has also been productive.

LONDON REGION

The London Region was well represented at the Annual Meeting of the Conservancy at Goderich in October. Fifteen of our members attended.

The Region held their annual Geranium Walk on Sunday, June 30, 1985, and, as in previous years, it was a great success. Five Hundred tickets were sold and numbers of people were turned away. The walk which started at the old Education Centre included one church and six century homes.

In November Mrs. Elizabeth Ingolfssrud, Furniture consultant to the Museum of Man, and a member of the Toronto Branch, gave an enlightening talk with slides on the influence architecture has on furniture. The talk was very well attended.

In December Mr. H. Craig gave an illustrated talk on a distinctive group of doorways of London and area. The doorways are on homes built between 1850 and 1880.

A walking tour was conducted by our treasurer, Mr. Bill Hitchins, providing the history and architecture of London East, an area of London which many city and business groups are trying to revitalize and save.

The group became deeply involved with the restoration of the Old Education Centre, formerly the London Normal School. The building, which was the Education Centre for the London Board of Education, was transferred to the Middlesex County Separate School Board. The School Board hired Carlos Ventin, Restoration Architect, to restore and refurbish it. Members of the group, under the guidance of the president Mrs. Julia Beck, recommended colours of paint to be used in the main entrance and reception foyers. The group also voted \$6,000.00 to install chandeliers and newel post lighting, similar to ones as shown on an early photograph of the grand stairs and foyer. We hope to have an article in the next edition of ACORN, including photographs of the completed restoration.

Of particular interest to old and new Londoners is an exhibition called "Symbols of Aspiration" organized around the works of London and area architects from 1850 to the start of World War I. The exhibition which consists of old and new photographs, plans and period illustrations, will be held at the London Regional Art Gallery from May 4 to June 22. Works by prominent London architects, William Robinson, Thomas H. Tracy, George F. Durand and John M. Moore will highlight the exhibit. Dr. Lynne Di Stefano, Mrs. Nancy Tausky and photographer Ian MacCachern of the University of Western Ontario have compiled the exhibit and are also writing a book called "Symbols of Aspiration" to be published by the University of Toronto press, and to be used as a guide and record of the exhibition. The exhibition will be shown in a number of art galleries in Ontario in the coming year.

NORTH WATERLOO REGION

On a sunny Sunday in October, we enjoyed a bus tour through the old pioneer settlements of Upper and Lower Doon along The Huron Road, the oldest proper road in the region. In the early 1800s this was the main route for immigrant settlers travelling to homesteads in the huge Huron Tract to the west. Mrs. Jean Haalboom, Chairman of Waterloo Regional Foundation described the early villages of Lower Doon, Williamsburg, New Aberdeen, and Strasburg and in Upper Doon, the settlements of Oregon and Tow Town. The majority of the homes were built in the standard one-and-a-half storey of the Ontario Gothic style and later the Waterloo Georgian style. We were able to visit the Doon Presbyterian Church standing today much as it did when built in 1854.

Today, few will believe that Doon once had a grist mill, a glue factory, an oatmeal plant, a distillery, a twine factory, a flax mill, a carriageworks, pail and tub factory, two brick and

tile yards, two shoddy mills, a shoe shop and tailor shop, three blacksmith shops, two sawmills, a cooperage, churches, a school, a train station and a large hotel. Our tour ended with dinner at Heidelberg Inn in the village of Heidelberg.

Our Christmas festivities took the form of old-fashioned carolling followed by Christmas Goodies lunch at the beautifully decorated home of our president, Mrs. Joye Krauel.

A series of three evening lectures is planned for the winter

program. Mr. Rob Deymen, planner with the City of Waterloo, spoke on current aspects of heritage planning. Nancy Lou Patterson of the Fine Arts Department of the University of Waterloo will lecture on the philosophy of painted interiors. Marg and Bob Rowell will give a slide lecture on Architecture of Southern Ontario with emphasis on Waterloo County.

This spring we will continue the series of visits to renovated and restored homes in this area.

GENERAL CONSERVANCY NEWS

CONSERVATION COMMENT

This is the first of a series of articles which Acorn will be printing relating to the philosophy of conservation. Each article will be by a different author and in this way it is hoped to present a number of viewpoints which will inform and provide new perspectives on this subject for ACO readers.

My own involvement in this field is two-fold, as a practising architect and as a participant in heritage conservation organizations.

As recently as the early seventies one had to be positively aggressive (in both ways) in order to make any case at all with municipalities regarding the preservation of threatened buildings. In fact, in Toronto the raze and erase approach to development had been gathering steam for a number of years previously. As many as 1500 and more demolition permits were being granted in a typical year in the 1960s; obviously not all were related to heritage or landmark buildings, but all disappeared without much protest or chance of recall.

That is why I joined with a small band of 'activists' under the banner of 'Time and Place' named after John Sewell's booklet which was so influential in its listing of important buildings in the city which had been lost or which we were likely to lose in the near future if citizens did not speak up.

At that time the South St. Lawrence Market was in considerable jeopardy. It was not generally realized that within its enveloping shell were the neglected remains of Toronto's first city hall that is, the first structure to be built expressly for that purpose. An engineers' report had pronounced the building structurally unsound and concluded that costs of renovation would be prohibitively expensive. A parking lot was being proposed as its 'sensible' replacement. Putting it mildly, this was not acceptable to the members of Time & Place. Eventually, we were able to make our point, and a joint city-citizens committee was established to advise the City Architect on the renovation of this valuable Toronto landmark. It is now a key element in the rejuvenated St. Lawrence district.

The preservation and protection of other buildings was pursued in a similar manner. Also during this period the

Architectural Conservancy was playing key roles in the preservation of Union Station, the 'Old' City Hall and in the fostering of public awareness of our legacy. Gradually, conservation became a more generally acceptable word, no longer dilettantish or elitist it acquired a different, populist, mantle.

It is gratifying to note how in recent years citizen groups dedicated to heritage protection have sprung up, taken root and blossomed across the country. Governments at various levels have responded with funding and legislative controls. While this is no time to rest on our laurels we can nevertheless take satisfaction in the remarkable achievements of the conservation movement during the last decade or so. There are few communities that cannot now take pleasure in restored or recycled building which have been integrated into the local scene, treasured reminders of the past and part of the continuing flow of life.



Maison Alcan, Montreal. Intricate integration of old and new.

Having secured our ground, conservationists can now take stock and contemplate future direction. While battling the common enemy - demolition - it is easy to be united. However, victory poses new challenges. What are the appropriate next steps? Do we restore or recycle? Is the preserved building to be a museum or put to other use? How do we respect the original and also update to meet contemporary code requirements and to accommodate new functions? How do we relate new structures to adjacent heritage landmarks or streetscape?

Clearly, the approach taken must be in response to the specific nature of each particular situation. The objective always being to ensure that our intervention is sympathetic to the character of the original and does not confuse those who come to seek the authentic. Depending on the inherent architectural quality and condition of the existing there are many opportunities for creative solutions.

On the one hand, new services will be discreetly concealed and original volumes maintained while at the other extreme, the building's role may be compared with that of the palimpsest - the old manuscript over-written by a new language and text but still revealing evidence of the original work. In such instances, different formal vocabularies can be dynamically juxtaposed to achieve lively architectural contrast.

All too frequently it is accepted that adaptation or infill building must imitate historical style. There has been a wonderful opportunity in Toronto's Rosedale or Cabbage town, for instance, for new housing to fit imaginatively into existing neighbourhoods. Unfortunately, instead, the vacant lots have been filled mostly with xeroxed pseudo Georgian or Victorian dwellings in singles, semis and by the row. Obviously, there are other ways in which to relate to historical style and local context.



Queens Quay Terminal, Toronto. Variations on an original theme.

Architectural conservation is based in part on a recognition of that common thread which links the highest expression of the human spirit in all periods of our history.

Accordingly, where new buildings are concerned I believe we should be encouraging architectural solutions which reflect the creative forces which flow through every age. We have a past worthy of veneration because we had ancestors who believed in the present. Speaking as an architect, I am quite certain that our own times also will leave a legacy to be treasured by our successors; I am not a preservationist because of any lack of confidence that this present age can equal the performance of our predecessors. I agree also that we cannot be truly up to date unless we understand the past.

The imitation Georgian and Victorian dwellings just mentioned fail because the pseudo replication seeks a too literal reference to an age gone by. However the wish to build associative and symbolic content in with the bricks and mortar is a valid one and can surely evoke a worthy and satisfying architectural response, rather than meaningless fakes. Similar circumstances are encountered on Canada's Main Streets. To attract the tourist, escapist fantasies masquerading as history take over; old buildings take on fancy dress, new buildings look old, old look new and essence which once gave the particular environment its special quality is lost behind the cosmetics and face-lifts. Not all heritage buildings need be brought to front and centre stage, they too can fit quite comfortably as background as well as foreground buildings on the appropriate occasion.

In summary, my approach to conservation is to help ensure that valued buildings from the past be allowed to continue to speak to us, in their own language, as authentic witnesses to their times and to the skills and aspirations of their builders.

When adaptation or adjacent new construction is involved, the greatest care is required in order to develop compatible relationships. This does not mean aping the language of our predecessors but it does demand that we use our own vocabulary thoughtfully and without offense. That is not an unreasonable challenge and it is one which presents the opportunity for rich and eloquent architectural expression, today as always.

H.V. Walker

ONTARIO BUILDING STYLES

The Georgian Tradition

The clear definition of architectural styles in Ontario's building history is difficult and becomes increasingly muddled as the nineteenth century advances bringing with it the myriad changes of fashion often associated with the term Victorian. The increasing eclecticism of the later Victorian period, the borrowing of ornament from previous historical times and its sometimes irrelevant but often charming if not outrageous combination bespoke an enthusiasm and *joie de vivre* never to be excelled. This exuberance soon had its reactionary aftermath and until fairly recently its detractors who failed to recognize it as the expression of the aspirations of its age.

Early building in Upper Canada, upon the founding of the province that was to become Ontario, was, however, essent-

ially rooted in an earlier tradition, either directly imported from Britain, as D.W. Smith's house in Newark (Niagara) was to illustrate, or once removed through the former North American colonies to the south. There is also a link with the French background along the Detroit and eastern frontier, but this, we believe, is wrongly attributed elsewhere as will be noted.



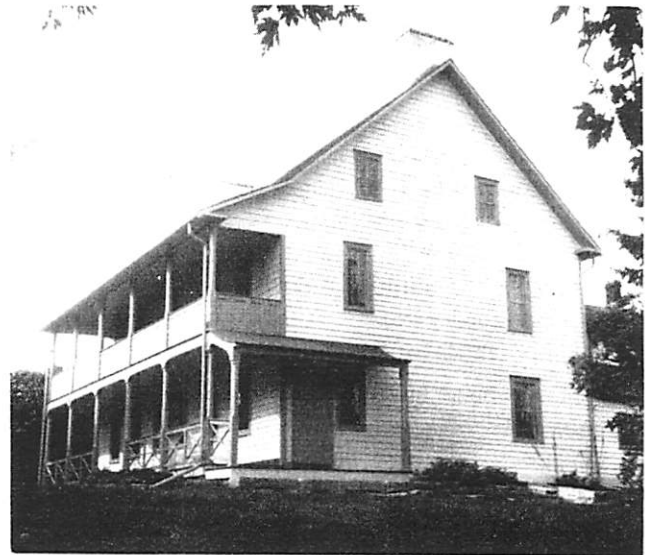
The GEORGIAN HOUSE
Sketches from 'HOMECOMING', 1800, Maitland, Ontario
The wing was added in 1810. RJA/SEA 3/86

The term **Georgian**, however, is much over-used, if not abused, often employed to indicate regular, usually symmetrical, fronts subscribing to the Classical, or more correctly neo-Classical, tradition pervading the design of more ordinary domestic building which forms such a large portion of our older stock. **Georgian**, strictly interpreted and so used here, refers to the period of the Georges prior to the Regency, from the beginning of the province in the late eighteenth century to c. 1810. This corresponds with a particular building type, regrettably with very few examples surviving, which differ markedly from their successors, especially those of the Regency which has few pure versions in the province, and its more North American manifestation of like period, the Federal style of the United States and Upper Canadian or **Loyalist**¹ equivalent.

Georgian houses in Upper Canada usually have symmetrical fronts with a centre door flanked by two windows on each side. If there are two storeys, five openings, ranged over those below, occupy the upper floor. The centre entrance is often a separate doorway with two narrow windows alongside, not incorporated as part of the doorcase, to light the hall behind. The house usually has a steeply pitched roof, with relatively narrow eaves and fairly tight verges to the gable ends. Chimneys may be within the plan or at the ends of the house. Windows have small panes, 7" by 9" a common size, in vertically sliding sash of twelve panes over twelve or twelve over eight in the slightly shorter windows upstairs.

The steeply pitched roof may have some connection with the French-Canadian tradition at either end of the southern ranges of the province as in the Elliott House near Amherstburg, now destroyed, or the storey-and-a-half Dr. Park House moved in that community a few years ago. Likewise the Bâby House of 1790 in Sandwich near Windsor may have had a similar influence. Sir John Johnson's storey-

and-a-half house in Williamstown, Glengarry, believed to be of the late 1780s, is another which has more than superficial French-Canadian ties for its structural system was **en colombage** or Red River frame, having timber posts with horizontal solid timber filling between.



The Fairfield White House

PJS photo 1984

William Fairfield's magnificent two-storey timber-framed house of c. 1793 near Collin's Bay, however, is the work of competent artificer trained in the British tradition and its structure illustrates the care taken in conception and execution of an early building. Its ground floor framing reflects the partition layout above, for instance. Heavy partitions filled with clay brick or split sticks and mud (a form of the medieval wattle and daub technique) flank the hall and the outer walls are also filled. The steep roof here, however, was more likely the need for a capacious attic to serve as a weaving loft plus, perhaps, a concession to the heavy winter snows anticipated. (The two-storey front verandah to this house is a change of the 1840s or 50s which has altered the original outline substantially.) Strangely the double pitched gambrel (or 'Dutch' barn roof) was not a feature of early Ontario houses, unlike contemporary structures in the Maritimes.

The Field House of c. 1800, on the Niagara Parkway between Niagara and Queenston has most of the marks of a **Georgian** house, a five-bay, two-storey front, separate lights to the hall, but lacks the steeply pitched roof, reputedly burnt off and replaced by the low-sloped form it now has. Its contemporary, the McFarland House a short distance to the north is also with an uncharacteristic low-pitched roof of a later period, but this building was 'modernized', at least internally, after the War of 1812.

Occasionally early houses were asymmetrical, the four-bay Barnhart House along the St. Lawrence west of Cornwall perhaps was an early example. Lake Lodge, the Reverend Addison's farmhouse of c. 1792 on the Lake Ontario shore is

now barely recognizable after many changes and more modern coverings. However 'Homewood', near Maitland, is the typical example of the **Georgian** house in Upper Canada. It has one remarkable feature, namely the heavy timber frames to its windows with sills flush with the face of its stone walls. The Reynolds/ Wilson House of c. 1800 in Wellington, Prince Edward County, has a similar detail. Regrettably the Heck House² of c. 1808, to the west of Maitland, was demolished some quarter of a century ago, but it too was stone and characteristically **Georgian**.

Interior detail in **Georgian** houses is relatively simple, but bold. Mantelpieces tend to have plain surrounds and heavily moulded, rather shallow shelves. One surviving from the early period in the Field House has a deeply modelled band along the frieze. Another in the Fairfield House has a simple eaved trim with double curve to the board supporting the shelf above. A bulbous bolection mould below the shelf shows in the Bethune/ Thompson House (the 'White House') c. 1805 in Williamstown. Lake Lodge near Niagara-on-the-Lake, has a curious mantel in oak, an unusual choice of hardwood in the early period, where the fan in the head board has a curious ocular shape. In Miss Young's School in Niagara-on-the-Lake, a log house of c. 1816, the pilasters of one mantel are tapered towards the base and have a **Georgian** influence and might have come from an even earlier building or reflect their background of the builder, a carpenter retired from His Majesty's forces. One fascinating detail, common to the Fairfield and Heck houses is the interlocking vertical board partition with moulded edges. Staircases are normally not the decorative feature they were to become in later periods, serving only as access and often boxed in. That in the Fairfield House is an exception, and perhaps a throwback to even earlier traditions, where its short flights and simple square newelled balustrades are framed into a square oak centre post decorated with fluting, which rises from ground floor to attic level. Doors were usually low and relatively wide with the six-panel design most common. Panels were deeply fielded with centres raised, the top panels almost square in shape. The door carcass containing the panels was often moulded.

House plans were simple; the centre hall layout with wide entrance and stair is the usual arrangement. Larger reception rooms, best and dining parlours, occur to the front, smaller rooms often slip or small bedroom behind. Bedrooms occur above, sometimes one a larger room available as a ballroom or convertible from two adjoining rooms. The kitchen is usually relegated to wing, often a single storey with loft above.

Next we will discuss the **Regency** and the **Loyalist** tradition.

Peter J. Stokes

(1) A differentiation coined by Marion MacRae and Anthony Adamson and mentioned in *The Ancestral Roof*.

(2) See *The Ancestral Roof*, p. 18

SAWMILL PLANK CONSTRUCTION

Sometimes referred to a stacked plank or perhaps described as horizontally laminated solid lumber walling, the term sawmill plank construction is used here as a better definition of the origins of this vernacular technique, once much used, but for a relatively short building period in Southern Ontario and perhaps elsewhere.

Sawmill plank construction is a building technology which has its roots in the proliferation of local sawmills, water-driven, in Southern Ontario around the mid-nineteenth century. It grew from the availability of sawn boarding or plank in large quantities for building solid walls of stacked material nailed or spiked together, interlocking at the corners and often staggered slightly in alternate layers to provide a key internally for plaster and externally for stucco, usually a roughcast finish.

It would appear that either the material was in copious supply, was cheap, or may have been boarding or planking of lower grade or unmerchantable at the time. The instances of structures of this kind always coincide with sawmill sites in the proximity, as along the Credit River in Streetsville, Meadowvale and Churchville, at Collingwood, near Orillia ("Northbrook", the Drink-water House) and other such locations. The technology was ideal, in heavier plank dimensions, for grain elevators, a smaller, later version surviving beside the C. N. tracks in Consecon (Prince Edward County), and also for early wood silos of square or octagonal form.

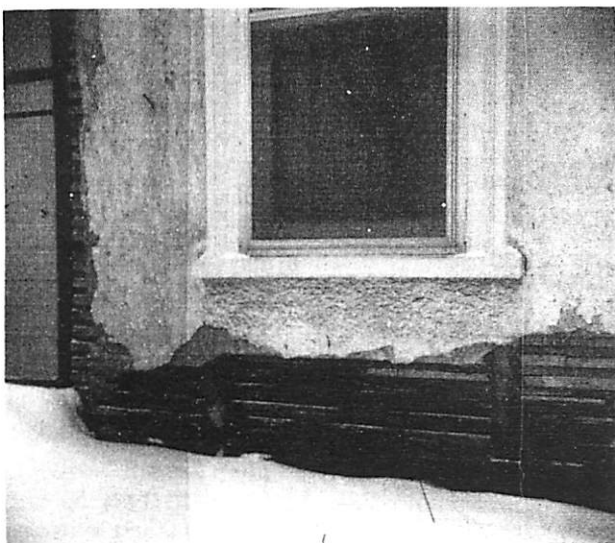
A number of variants of this building technique may be of interest. The Clark House in Camden East (formerly Clark's Mills) is constructed of 2" x 6" dressed on the outer face only with the edges bevelled slightly to create a shallow V-joint between planks: the planks were laid in a thin coat of lime mortar. This house is also believed to have internal partitions of similar material. The Doctor's House in Collingwood (regrettably demolished in 1984), also had internal partitions of solid lumber which had contained satisfactorily a fire within the building, which highlights the fire-resistant qualities of the construction. "Northbrook" is a two-storey version, originally roughcast outside but in later Victorian times veneered in brick, and is perhaps one of the oldest still standing. A house was reported to have been built of short ends of 2" X 4", again probably surplus or unmerchantable material, but the walls had so deformed, probably due to some extent to insecure fastening and lack of continuity of the individual layers, that the building had to be demolished. This last would be the exception. In Grafton the old general store on the main corner is a storey-and-a-half version of the sawmill plank building and its curious obtuse corner could easily be accommodated by cutting the ends of the interlocking boards to fit the angle snugly.

None of these buildings seems to date from the early period of sawmills, the first establishments. These mills were often of limited capacity and their produce much in demand for building in early settlements. It would seem that sawmill plank construction came into its heyday when the lumber

industry was set up as an export business or to serve a growing building phase from the 1840s to the 1870s. It appears to be based mainly on smaller local enterprises which, once the area resources were exhausted, closed down. These were prosperous from the 1820s on, and in many areas up to the 1870s. An exception might be Collingwood where more extensive lumber interests were at work close to the port and point of export.

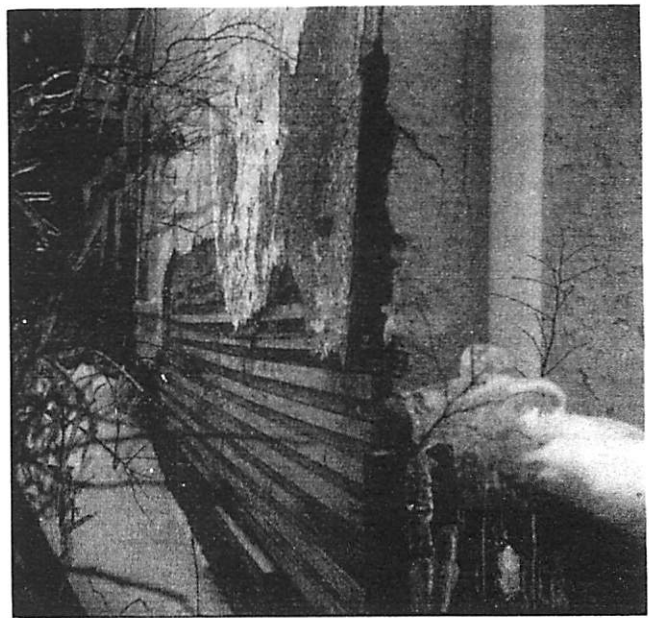
The technology is an excellent one in many respects given the ready supply of material handy to the site. Its relatively fire-resistant character made it safer than traditionally framed buildings. If it is maintained and protected the structure should last a long time. But it also has some notable drawbacks which the users of the time may not have foreseen. First the cumulative cross-grain shrinkage in softwood lumber stacked on the flat can be quite substantial, in the order of several centimetres (and often well over an inch in each storey). The wall is therefore not entirely stable vertically, shrinking in dry seasons or when heated and swelling when conditions are humid. This would affect both the fastenings holding the planks together and the finishes keyed to the offset planks. In the case of the Clark House of c. 1840 in Camden East, the problem was partly recognized for the walls were plastered over cross lath applied to the planking. However the plaster still bulged dramatically as the planks shrank slightly, the finish being kept on by copious layers of wallpaper, prompting the current owner to remark that perhaps the best solution was to add another layer of wallpaper. In this case too the seasonal movement had caused the 2" x 6" planks to separate despite the thin mortar layer between, making it somewhat draughty and promoting its covering with narrow shiplap early in this century.

In some instances, the small Brampton cottage being an example, an attempt seems to have been made to reduce the effect of seasonal movement by putting heavy studs or light posts at intervals between sill and roof plate, particularly



Brampton cottage. Vertical studs flanking window opening showing decay of planking and sill below.

PJS photo 1986



Brampton cottage. Deterioration of corner caused by leaking downspout. Roughcast finish loosened from key formed by offset plank.

PJS photo 1985

alongside openings and using the horizontal boarding as infilling basically. Curiously, however, the corners are interlocked and therefore this improvement is negated, the external angles of the building allowed to distort and tending to move away from the plate or letting the plate droop at the corners. Furthermore the infilling between studs becomes somewhat insecure and essentially non-structural or at least non-bearing and required only to permit continuous interior and exterior finishes.

Although wood, by its cellular nature, is to a certain extent an insulator, and by its composition a non-conductor, it has a relatively low insulating capacity compared to modern insulations. It is, however, far better than a non-insulated framed building, and equivalent, with perhaps less leakage between layers normally, to a solid timber or log house. But being solid lumber, and usually softwood, it is also very susceptible to decay, which once initiated may spread rapidly through the structure if the basic causes are not arrested and the damage repaired. Broken or frozen downspouts spilling over walls can soak the stucco finish and the wood below; the stucco will crack and ultimately break away, the lumber underneath will begin to decay infecting adjoining sound material and attracting carpenter ants as the moist condition prevails. Likewise bottoms of walls becoming buried by backfill or banking for flowerbeds will promote severe decay in sills and the lower layers of the planking. If intermediate posts occur the ends will also decay from the sill upwards.

The proper treatment of sawmill plank buildings involves certain cardinal attentions, but these may not overcome the inherent deficiencies of this technology. In other words an owner of a sawmill plank building may have to live with a certain amount of distortion and seasonal movement, with attendant cracks or deformations in finishes. However the laminated nature of its construction makes such a plank

building relatively simple to repair, for the continuity of layers and strength of overhanging or projecting courses enables replacement to be made often without needling or temporary support. Continuity can be restored by adequate fastening, and the whole will remain an integral structure. Various compromises can be considered in the interests of economy or superiority depending on the relative merit of authenticity versus expediency in repairs.

The basic conservation procedures to be followed include:

(1) Keep the timber and lumber at least 8" (200 mm.) above grade, i.e., the foundation should project this far, at least, above ground.

(2) Slope all grades positively away from the building.

(3) Keep the foundation dry, using perimeter drainage if necessary or alternatively install a damp-proof course between timber or lumber and the top of the foundation wall.

(4) Maintain the exterior finish in good condition with a tight coating and if stucco, limewashed or coated to fill in any hair cracks. This is particularly important on faces exposed to the weather, especially the east side.

(5) Maintain eavestroughs and downspouts making sure these are tight and cleaned of debris such as leaves or roofing granules.

(6) When repairs are made remove all decayed portions of infected material and treat the remaining lumber in situ with wood preservative, preferably two coats brushed on using pentachlorophenol, green (with copper naphthate) observing all the necessary precautions in the use of this material as directed by the manufacturers.

Use preservative-treated lumber for replacements, treating all cut ends if pre-treated material is used.

Build up thicknesses to required surface where only partial removal is required. Where total removal has been necessary try to stagger end joints to facilitate refastening and continuity and hence integrity of the wall.

Solid timber sills may be replaced by sound like material, new or from salvage, or laminated preservative-treated lumber might be substituted as a compromise.

Posts will require "dutchmen" or short stub ends, preferably notched to fit a corresponding form in the original so that the integrity and security of the structure can be ensured.

Carefully fit new material to old to ensure continuity and secure together by adequate fastenings, using hot-dipped galvanized wire nails or spikes.

Should carpenter ant damage be evident (this takes the form of long tunnels with wafers of harder wood left between) then damaged material should be removed, remaining material adjacent treated with wood-preservative and appropriate replacement made. If ants are still active fumigation may be called for. Likewise for termite infestation which has similar signs with exterior mud-encased tunnels across foundations often visible. Here the problem may be common to the locality in which case a proper termite shield may be called for between masonry and wood. Borer damage, such as small bore holes made by powder post beetle will need removal, and comparable attention.

(7) Repair finishes to match original materials.

Where roughcast is the original exterior finish this is now often known in the plastering trade as "wetdash". It is put on with base coats, usually two in number and scratched or scored for better adhesion of successive layers, the final coat as slurry made with a heavier aggregate up to fine beach gravel size thrown on with a large wooden spatula or small paddle.

Where new dressed lumber and preservative-treated wood is used it is advisable to use a stucco reinforcement as the backing, and where old material is removed and has to be replaced over original sound lumber the existing wood should be well brushed down to remove loose particles and dust and the surface coated with a plaster-bonding agent suitable for an exterior location.

Similar precautions are necessary when replacing internal finishes, except that expanded metal or wire lath would be used as a plaster bond. Alternatively gypsum board or drywall may be substituted especially if the wall is built out with insulation applied internally. It is important in the last case to maintain an air separation between the back of the insulation and the internal face of the sawmill plank wall by using vertical strapping.

Alternative repair methods, which incidentally are reversible, would be to replace damaged or removed planking by stub walls of 2" studs spaced at 16" on centres and insulating the cavities with vapour-proof batts or equivalent material. The exterior would require an undersheathing, building paper and mesh reinforcement for the stucco, the interior an additional polyethylene vapour barrier and lath and plaster or drywall finish.

One advantage of these structures is that their laminated construction favours relatively easy repair of damaged sections. Its virtually homogeneous wall structure when fastened together means that considerable areas can be carried from the upper portions left in place during the operation. Furthermore breaking joints to create a stitched effect will help preserve the integrity and continuity of the structure, particularly if securely fastened together.

Sawmill plank construction is a fascinating expression of a briefly economical technology when lumber was cheap and plentiful. The construction does not require the demanding skills of a timber framer: all one had to do was nail one board on top of another leaving space for openings. A level, a plumb bob and measure were the only other guides necessary, although a square was of help. In the offset versions offering a key for stucco and plaster finishes no further base was required. The structure was fairly rigid if well nailed and if intersecting cross walls of like material were interlocked. It was also fire-resistant being of solid wood. Its principal disadvantage is that it moves with the seasons like a very restrained concertina and when poorly maintained may be very susceptible to decay and insect attack.

Peter John Stokes

Consulting Restoration Architect

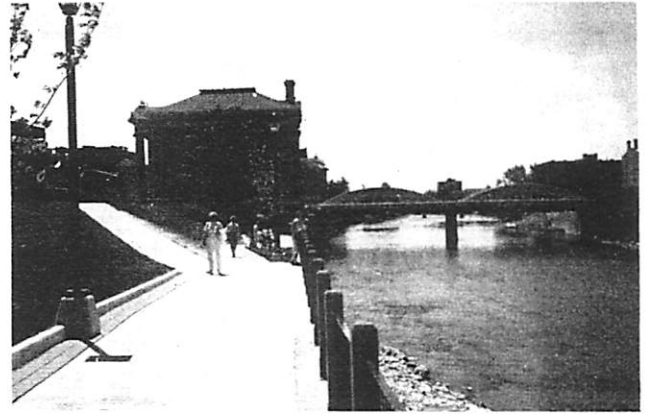
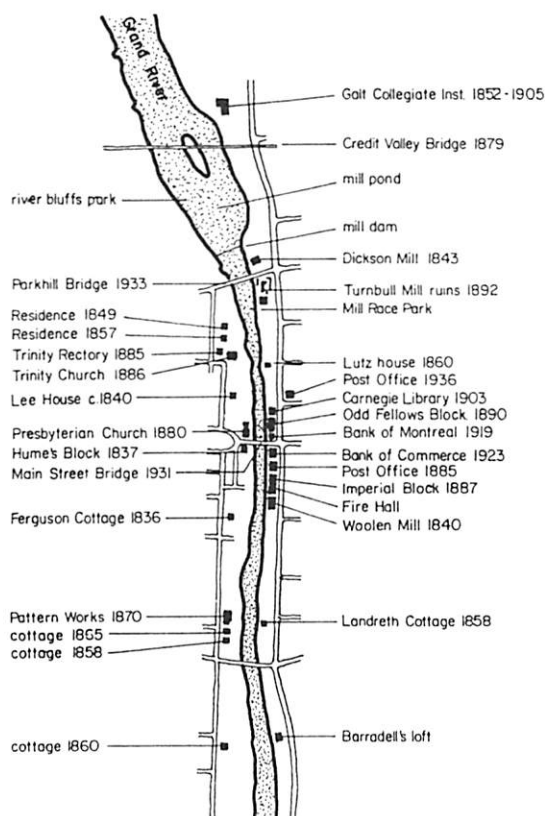
CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

Edited by Nicholas Hill

A significant riverscape, and more...conserving the historic riverscape in Cambridge.

A beautiful historic riverscape is being conserved in the city of Cambridge. Under the guidance of Tom Smith, coordinator of Design and Development in the city's Community Services Department a rich, natural and man-made heritage is now a visible and pleasurable part of the city's living fabric. Historic mills, bridges, residences and churches; preserved and romantic ruins; mill ponds, dams, parks and promenades are just a few of the many features of the riverscape.

Work began on the conservation of the riverscape over twelve years ago. The initial impetus came in 1974 after a severe flood put the central business district under five feet of water. An engineering plan was prepared to contain future flooding. By 1978 a formal riverbank improvement program was underway. A Riverbank Development Advisory Committee with representatives from the public, the Grand River Conservation Authority, City Council and city staff was appointed. As improvements progressed, the opportunity of incorporating historic and architecturally significant structures and sites into the plan arose. Historic interpretation and architectural conservation are now key objectives in the 1986 masterplan for the river entitled "The Living Levee". Tom Smith discussed some of his thoughts and the plan's objectives.



View looking south down the Grand River with the 1903 Carnegie Library on the left and the 1931 Main Street Bridge. A delightful park borders the river.

"Waterfronts, no matter what size, have always provided interest, mystery and beauty. They have always attracted people. Much of what makes a waterfront interesting are their traditional activities which seem to have been there as long as you remember. They can take the form of dams, sluiceways, raceways and mill buildings.

In Cambridge many of the buildings which line the river bank are important links with our past and are excellent examples of a variety of architectural styles.

Cambridge is an interesting example of where an open space master development plan has been prepared, utilizing historic interpretation and architectural conservation as prime objective.

The Living Levee plan also did something else which is of importance in Cambridge. It brought together the Riverbank Development Advisory Committee with other organizations such as Heritage Cambridge, LACAC, the Business Improvement Association, the Tourism and Convention Bureau, the GRCA, and the City of Cambridge in a common cause. Public and private efforts for conservation have been co-ordinated."

A visit to this scenic and historic riverscape is highly recommended.

1985 Annual General Meeting - A.C.O. Huron County

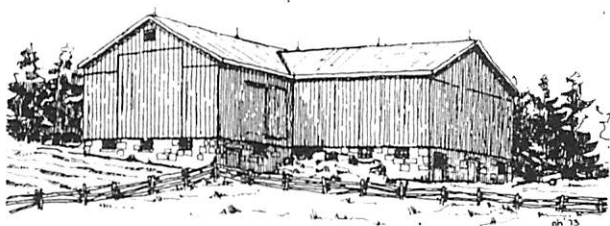
A splendid annual general meeting of the A.C.O. was hosted in October of 1985 by the Huron County Branch. The high quality of presentations and panel discussions, the gala Saturday night dinner and tour of the local countryside, towns and villages, all made for an excellent weekend.

Huron County Branch President, Dorothy Wallace, hosted a dinner for the executive of the A.C.O. on the Friday evening preceding the conference.

On the morning of Saturday, October 19, members arrived at the conference centre which was the Livery Theatre in Goderich. This building was once a stable and has been converted into a multipurpose auditorium, complete with stage and lighting, used by the Goderich Little Theatre. It has

a country quality with dark beams, stone walls and wrought ironwork.

The three morning presentations focused on rural conservation and commenced with Dr. Gary Davidson, director of planning for Huron County. As one of Ontario's foremost rural planners with a keen interest in conservation, Dr. Davidson outlined the maturing of conservation in Huron County that has moved from an early position of fighting to save buildings to now being well integrated into the planning and decision making process. A positive attitude towards conservation has been established in the county with three heritage conservation districts and over seventy-five designated buildings. New pressures on the L.A.C.A.C.'s are being felt to administer efficiently the growing demands and responsibilities on them.



Donald Pullen, the agricultural representative with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Huron County was the second speaker. Mr. Pullen's presentation was a fascinating insight into the changing countryside. This was made particularly vivid by many early photographs taken by Sallows, a local photographer. Changing farming methods, equipment and economics have all had an influence on these changes.

Jean Haalboom from Kitchener was the final speaker of the morning and gave an interesting presentation on the Huron Trail. This trail was the first road from Guelph through to Goderich. As chairman of the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, Mrs. Haalboom drew upon a wide knowledge in history and conservation and showed the influence the trail had had on the development of industry and communities along its way.

L.A.C.A.C. problems and opportunities was the theme of the afternoon's panel discussion. The format consisted of introductory remarks by four panellists - Marion Walker Garland (Editor-in-Chief of the Acorn), Dr. Peter John Stokes (Leading conservation architect from Niagara-on-the-Lake), Gary Davidson (Director of Planning for Huron County), and Elizabeth Vickers (member from the Toronto Historical Board).

This session was undoubtedly one of the most interesting and lively in the conference as it highlighted the difficulties and weaknesses the conservation movement is experiencing out in the field. A recurring feature of the overall discussion was the onerous responsibility and work load the L.A.C.A.C.s were now coping with and the need for back-up support in terms of information and know-how. The early



Clinton Main Street

heroic days are being replaced by the need for an efficient and informed service. Participants discussed the need to become better informed on the technical aspects of conservation as well as building styles and terminology. The afternoon session certainly provided the A.C.O. with thought on how better to assist and work with L.A.C.A.C.

Following tea, a walking tour of Goderich was conducted by members of the Huron Branch of the A.C.O. The tour viewed many of the splendid historic homes in the town as well as the famous octagonal Court House Square encircled by commercial blocks. This is a designated heritage conservation district.

Dinner was served in the Livery Theatre. The atmosphere was warm and pleasurable with a hearty meal provided by the neighbouring Bedford Hotel whose patrons' traps and horses were once accommodated in the theatre. Following dinner the formal business of the A.G.M. commenced. Outgoing president Howard Walker delivered an eloquent speech highlighting the past year's activities. The new slate of officers was elected and includes:

<i>President</i>	Mr. Nicholas Hill
<i>Senior Vice-President</i>	Mrs. Donna Baker
<i>Vice-President</i>	Mr. Roy Turner
<i>Vice-President</i>	Mr. Spencer Higgins
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mr. Douglas McPhie
<i>Secretary</i>	Mrs. Elizabeth Dashwood
<i>Membership-at-Large</i>	Mr. Kenneth Clarke
	Mr. Carel Kippers
	Mr. William Moffet
	Dr. Peter John Stokes

Auditors were appointed and other business was transacted.

The after dinner speaker was Major Howey Langan who presented an audio-visual on the Gothic Revival house in Ontario. This was a most enjoyable conclusion to a busy and eventful day.

Sunday's activities consisted of a bus tour of Huron County finishing up with lunch at the Little Inn in Bayfield. The day was bright and sunny and the countryside looked

particularly beautiful. The tour commenced in Goderich and went first to the picturesque hamlet of Benmiller with its restored water mills that now form part of a luxury hotel complex. From Benmiller we went across county to the hamlet of Auburn and then on to the town of Clinton where a stopover provided us with an opportunity to view the historic Anglican church and town Hall. Continuing on to Seaforth we viewed the superb late nineteenth century main street of this small market town and then stopped for warm cider and refreshments at the historic Van Egmond House. The tour continued across fine farm land for a final stop at the small village of Bayfield renowned for its historic charm and setting on Lake Huron. The Little Inn provided most excellent lunch. Upon returning to Goderich the conference came to a close.

Many members of the Huron Branch of the A.C.O. were involved in organising this highly successful conference, and particular thanks are extended to Dorothy Wallace, Dorothy Reid, Gwen Pemberton, Martin Kuipers, Peg Willock, Pat Muraton, Elsa Haydon, Joan and Lisa Vanden Broeck, Elva Metcalfe and Gayle Gundy.



Jeanne Welbanks Minhinnick, C.M.
1903 - 1985

Jeanne Minhinnick, long associated in the minds of most of us with the many memorable interpretations of our history she presented, died early last December in her eighty-third year. She will be remembered by those many friends who had the pleasure and privilege to have been her working associates or recipients of her support and assistance on many an occasion, and especially those who shared the battlegrounds that so many preservation projects seem to offer in the process.

A generalist by nature, Jeanne was a conjurer of

impressions, basing her concepts on fact where record could be found, bridging the inevitable gaps by a guided interpretation of human behaviour represented by habit, custom and practicality in past terms. She herself gave such meaning to the phrase in which she described our own short history- "It is the hand that touched the hand that touched the hand". For it was her own early and continuing experiences coupled with constant reading, perspicacious observation and strong sense of responsibility, the product of that strong chain of Loyalist and Scotch background, which made her preservations such a memorable success. Those early days with her grandparents helped develop that insight, respect and love for others which came out later. Her varied early career as comparative buyer, editor, freelance writer and bookshop manager prepared her for her later vocation. She will be remembered by many for her articles in *Canadian Homes*, the *Canadian Collector* and other magazines, her helpful presence in *Britnell's* and for the wonderful book *At Home in Upper Canada*, fortunately still in print.

That later vocation which Jeanne Minhinnick made so successful to our great benefit started when most of us are looking towards retirement. She was responsible for the furnishing, decoration and landscape at Upper Canada Village, for she was also keenly interested and knowledgeable in gardening, and carried on there after the opening in July, 1961, assisted from 1959 and succeeded there by Margery Disette. Later she was to be furnishing consultant to Dundurn Castle and Whitehern in Hamilton. In the early 1970s she was involved with the furnishing and decoration of the Grange in Toronto with Margaret Machell as liaison and Emmett Lewis as assistant. Jeanne was involved in many other projects too, Chiefswood near Brantford, the Ermatinger House at Sault Ste. Marie, Maillou House in Quebec and Battlefield House in Stoney Creek, for instance. As consultant to the furnishing of historic rooms restored in the East Block of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa she worked with Richard Raycraft. One of her favourite projects was in her home town of Picton, the restoration furnishing and decoration of the Macaulay House in 1979. Frequently helped in her later career by her artist husband 'Bat' producing sketches to help her visualize and present her ideas, she enjoyed her retirement in Prince Edward County where in the summer she moved out to South Bay.

Jeanne lectured and participated in seminars on her subject on many occasions. She was a founding member of APT, the Association of Preservation Technology, taking part in the inaugural discussion at Stanley House in the Gaspé in 1968, and was a member of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.

Jeanne Minhinnick was recognized for her talented appreciation and presentation of our heritage by being honored as a Member of Canada in 1979, the year in which she was awarded the Gabrielle Léger Medal by Heritage Canada for her outstanding achievement in the field of historical interpretation. She leaves behind not only memories, but those telling revelations of our past, seen through the kindly penetration of a most unusual artist.

PJS

The ACO Fall 1985 Bus Tour.

A small group of intrepid travellers, several who had been with us before, braved the Thanksgiving weekend last fall to visit sites and buildings in far Eastern Ontario with our favourite driver Bill Holden. Predictably the weather was not the best - it was a long weekend after all - but fall colours were in their prime and the mist and drizzle was to add a subtle majesty to that early-settled landscape. The first leg of our trip was a fast run down 401, a brief stop at the Wesleyville Road to pick up the Port Hope area contingent, including A.K. and Bob Sculthorpe and AK's ample provisions. Our stop for the welcome and sumptuous picnic lunch was in a small park (courtesy of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission) beside the St. Lawrence overlooking some of the thousand islands east of Gananoque.

The route continued along the Parkway, through Brockville and east, then back to 401 to make up time. Our first visit was to Inverarden of 1816, a Regency "cottage" built by John McDonald of Garth, partner in the North West Company, rival to the Hudson's Bay Company, at Gray's Creek east of Cornwall overlooking the river. After being severely damaged by vandals recently the house has been restored and is now displayed with historic furnishings, some pieces original to the house; it is open to the public free of charge, courtesy of Parks Canada. Then we drove to Williamstown in Glengarry County to visit the Bethune/Thompson (or White) House, a fascinating early nineteenth century structure which had its origins perhaps before 1805, the main storey-and-a-half section and its wing completed by the Reverend John Bethune, the first Presbyterian minister in Upper Canada, about that year and then alterations and additions made by the later owner David Thompson and the McLennan family. The house was undergoing conservation by the present owner, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, but their tenant, Peter Rehberg, kindly showed us through to view old building techniques and the early detail of the interior. The house is notable for the varied influences upon its design, the storey-and-a-half section with verandahs slightly French Canadian in effect, its once-matching wings lending it a Georgian formality. The interior detail, however, is essentially of Georgian background, including the balustrade to the stairs in the small box hall and the fine mantelpiece with pilastered overmantel, bold and strongly moulded.

Then we walked around St. Andrew's, the old stone church of 1813 with its attractive round-headed windows evocative of the Palladian form. The present minister, the Reverend Clifford Evans, described the history of this historic church built by the Church of Scotland Presbyterians during the Reverend Bethune's tenure. This building has been much altered internally later in the nineteenth century from its curious original layout of the pulpit against the long wall, incidentally to the east side of the church. Then a brief walk around the Sir John Johnson House of the late 1780s, a clapboarded building of a storey and a half with steep roof and dormers, the walls constructed *en colombe*, or posts with horizontal solid timber infilling

in the French-Canadian manner. The building and its later addition by the fur trader MacGillivray are used partly as the local public library which was, regrettably, closed on our visit and the rest of the building inaccessible awaiting further conservation and restoration.

We travelled down the road following the Raisin River to Lancaster and then to a supper of fresh Lake St. Francis perch at a local inn where we also stayed the night. That was an experience, there being two sides to every world including ours, but the breakfast was a good send-off to a fascinating Sunday tour. But in between we returned for the evening to join members of the local historical society and some of our old friends, the Casselmans and the Cunninghams from Upper Canada Village, to enjoy an illustrated talk by our guide Peter Stokes about the beginnings of that great enterprise.

Thanksgiving Sunday began with great excitement as we visited that remarkable house Fraserfield with its centre block crowned by a cupola and flanked by matching wings. This handsome composition dominates a knoll near the centre of a large farm on the way to Martintown. The house is owned by George Lang who with his numerous family runs the farm as a very successful enterprise. Mr. and Mrs. Lang and the children took us around the house which they are conserving gradually with a little assistance from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. It is a monumental task for the Langs who have not owned the property for very long, having moved from the Cobourg area. But they are extremely appreciative of the significance of the house and its majestic detail. Although originally constructed early in the nineteenth century the interior underwent a major transformation about 1840 when the owner obviously realized the value of his investments from previous connections with the government. The entrance hall is a magnificence trimmed out heavily in walnut with elaborate plasterwork and a handsome stair rising from the back of the house. The drawing room is extraordinary with marbled mantelpiece, bold trim and a decorative ceiling cornice, the detail picked out in colour. Even the carpet is a very old one which contributes to the effect. The dining parlour opposite is likewise a handsome room of generous proportions and high ceilinged. The wings have been adapted to more modern convenience downstairs and one, used by a younger generation of the previous owner has unfortunately suffered a picture window to the front. Upstairs the bedrooms are generous too, and the Langs are carefully cleaning down later paint to reveal original decorative finishes. The wing attics, several steps down from the second floor of the main block, exhibit the detail of the original house with finely executed trim and six-panel doors with delicate astragal moulds applied to the panels: we were to see that detail again that day. The generosity of the Langs meant doughnuts and coffee, and we had a hard time to tear ourselves away from this happy house and its hardworking family.

Around the backroads to our next destination - Stokes seldom takes the shortest route! Via the road past the ruin of St. Raphael's church to North Lancaster, former site of Upper Canada Village's blacksmith shop, and on to

Dalhousie Mills where we caught a glimpse of the brick octagonal church. Then we came upon a truly historic site, scene of the beginning of Jean Elder's teaching career: Jean gave us the story of her experiences of those early days in Vankleek Hill. This small town has more double verandahs than any other town in Ontario, it seems, and the picturesque blend of whimsical Victorian detail there was indeed a pleasant and rewarding surprise, not to mention AK's discovery that several martin houses graced the centre of town.

That was a brief encounter before our next stop at the old church in L'Orignal, the county town of Prescott and Russell on the Ottawa River, and site of one of Ontario's oldest courthouses. The community takes a great interest in this designated church which has the curious arrangement now of being cut in half internally with the church hall on one side. A brief drive took us to Duldraeggan Hall where the owners, Dr. and Mrs. Drummond Smith, were awaiting our arrival. This stone house of 1821 constructed by Alexander Grant, once a factor in the North West Fur Company, is a magnificent five-bay, two-storey gable-roofed building now finished in stucco, with casement windows and an elegant entrance with a two storey porch. Alongside is a walled garden of about an acre with a few old fruit trees still in place although the original landscape is no longer there. Behind the house still stands a long animal shed constructed in *en colombage*. But the simple dignity of Duldraeggan Hall's exterior belies the delicacy of its interior detail, and the fine astragal mouldings on its pannelled box shutters with louvres in the lower sections, the symmetrical pilaster trim with corner blocks and the simply moulded cornices exhibit the restrained classical treatment of its finish. Dr. and Mrs. Drummond Smith, their family and guests welcomed us and we tarried in the hospitable warmth of that delightful house, again enjoying delicious refreshments.

Well a box lunch was maybe a comedown after that, but it kept body at least together while we drove through the Ottawa valley plain and flat Eastern Ontario landscape towards a late visit to Upper Canada Village. But it was not only the lateness of the day but the dank autumn weather which curbed our spirits somewhat. Willard's Hotel in the Village helped make up for that with a good Thanksgiving dinner. We were off next to our hosts and hostesses for the night, the members of the Osgoode Historical Society whom we met in Vernon on Highway 31. They gave us a local tour, a stone house built just past the mid-nineteenth century rescued from neglect and a log house converted to picturesque but modern comfort. Beds and breakfasts were well arranged, and all seemed to enjoy the company. The Stokes were taken care of by a family who still occupied the ancestral farm, and now retired looked after a pair of handsome working oxen they took around the country to shows and fairs.

Monday was to be a short day to avoid the traffic streaming back to Toronto at the end of the holiday. Off across country Bill Holden drove us, through Athens - "the centre of culture" - a charming village once known as

Farmersville. We stopped at Lyndhurst, to view Ontario's oldest stone bridge, recently endangered by demolition but being considered now for conservation largely thanks to local effort and support. The sun came out to greet us on arrival. Lyndhurst's earlier name was Furnace Falls and it was here that an early iron smelting operation was set up. The bridge itself is a particularly fascinating structure for the odd disposition of its arches, those at the eastern end canted at a slight angle presumably to favour water circulation to an old flume or millrace. This leaves one pier of the bridge with a narrower face on the upstream side.

Continuing across country we pulled in at Jones Falls to view Colonel By's magnificent works on the Rideau Canal there, the famous horseshoe dam and the stair of locks. There was time to walk the circuit and see all parts of these structures completed over 130 years ago and in service ever since. The dam itself is constructed of huge stone blocks fashioned as massive voussoirs to fit a tremendous arch set in the vertical plane, battered inwards slightly towards the top: any pressure against the upper side created by the impounded water is resisted by the thrust of this structure against its abutments. Some of us so enjoyed the scene we dallied long, but the colourful, picturesque landscape of trees, rock and water and the weather abetted us.

It was then another rush across country, eventually to succumb once more to 401 just to catch up a little for our last event of the trip - an excellent lunch at the historic Marie Dressler House in Cobourg, now successfully continuing under the management of Mr. John Wilkinson.

More new experiences, most to be remembered, and yet another taste of Canada's wonderful fall. So we look forward to our next trip, this time in late May (Saturday the 24th and Sunday the 25th - Victoria day is the previous Monday, the 19th, which therefore makes the long weekend) to the south-western corner of Ontario, the Essex peninsula and thereabouts. On the way we shall be visiting Petrolia among other places, before seeing the early government-planned town of Amherstburg. Then it will be back along the Lake Erie shore, through places like Kingsville and cross-country towards Toronto. The 1986 Fall Tour will be to Collingwood and area via the Mulmur Hills hoping for the best in colour. This trip will continue along the southern shore of Georgian Bay and back through towns like Shelburne and Orangeville. The routes will be varied and not always along familiar or well-travelled highways we promise you. Looking forward to seeing you again. For further details see note under Bus Tour.

Two Great Days in May for Conservation

Please mark on your calendar: Saturday, May 10th, and Sunday May 11th - on Saturday at the Royal Botanical Gardens the ACO will be taking part in an all day presentation for the LACACs. The time 9-5.

And on Sunday, May 11, the ACO will give two walks, one at 10:30 a.m., the Town of Dundas, and a second at 2:30 p.m. - the Historic City of Hamilton - ending at Whitehern

for tea from 12 - 2:30 the ACO will hold its annual meeting. There will be brunch at the ~~Ancaster Mill~~, Dundas, followed by the business of the annual meeting. For details, time, place, and cost, please write or call the ACO,

Peter John Stokes's-Spring Bus Tour to South Western Ontario

Leave 720 Spadina Ave. (ACO's new address) at 9:00 a.m. Saturday May 24th and return to Toronto, Sunday 9:00 p.m. Price \$150.00 includes all meals and overnight accommodations and bus fare. For trip details see last paragraph of **A.C.O. Fall 1985 bus tour.**

Reservation \$50.00 by April 20th, final payment May 5th. Sorry, no money refunded.

Send reservations or inquires to:

Architectural Conservancy of Ont. Inc.
720 Spadina Ave., Ste. 12.,
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2T9
(416) 928-2085

or

Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe,
R.R. # 3,
Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3T4
(416) 885-6960

AROUND AND ABOUT ONTARIO

A \$5 million campaign has been launched by the Hon. Lily Munro, Minister of Citizenship and Culture. The campaign is to support the establishment of the Ontario Heritage Centre at 10 Adelaide Street, E., Toronto. The Centre - the first of its kind in Canada - will be headquarters to many provincial heritage organizations. It is being established in response to an identified need by the province's heritage groups for a facility where space, services and expertise could be shared efficiently and economically, and Ontario's heritage activities could be appropriately showcased and made more accessible to the public, in a building with heritage significance.

The former financial building (1907-08) at 10 Adelaide Street East met all the requirements. The building was designed by Toronto architect George W. Gouinlock.

The Centre is owned by the Ontario Heritage Foundation and will be managed with the assistance of Viatan Developments. To begin with the Centre will house five or six heritage organizations and within a few years a large number of such groups.

The Campaign, under the patronage of Premier Peterson, will be led by the Honourary Chairman Allen Lambert, Q.C., and Campaign and Ontario Heritage Foundation Chairman, John White.

LONDON REGION

London Region Art Gallery Exhibition

(Corner Dundas St. and Ridout St.) Opening Sat. after-

noon, May 16 and running until June 27, 1986.

By Dr. Lynne Di Stefano and Mrs. Nancy Tausky "Symbols of Aspiration": Nineteenth century architecture in London and South Western Ontario of the firm which evolved from Robinson to Durand to Moore. A book of this firm will also be sold at the L.R.A.G. shop.

PICTON

A tragic accident in early January destroyed that remarkable Picton landmark, Castle Villeneuve. A massive explosion, which was possibly the result of a good Samaritan act which backfired, shattered the building and also caused one death and injuries to some fourteen people, some receiving serious burns in the flash fires which ensued. It was late in the dinner hour at this well-known restaurant and several guests were still in the building when the blast happened.

The devastation which the explosion caused ruined the building and only the far end, the ballroom wing, seemed to withstand to some extent the force of the blast, leading a member of Prince Edward County's LACAC and loyal ACO Quinte Branch supporter, Rodger Greig, to try to seek at least the preservation of that part of the building. The back wall and half of the front wall of the oldest section, which started as the nucleus of this incredible and highly picturesque composition, were blown out: the blast originated apparently in the basement below. The second and ground floor of the western half collapsed into the basement leaving the roof hanging above, brick filling to later extensions were bulging out and almost every pane of glass, save in the far room above the ballroom and a very old and wavy pane in an upstairs window at the back, was broken. Window sash were shattered, frames pushed right out of the walls/and the sliding doors to the ballroom, closed at the time, were splintered and tossed to the far end of the room, their fragments revealing below the later paint the bird's-eye maple graining of their original finish. The flooring in the west half of the older block was lifted from its supports on the ground floor and even the roof boards dislodged from the rafters in places.

Some of the elaborate plasterwork in the ballroom did survive, but much was damaged and fell. The fine marble mantelpiece was intact, but before the week was out had become dislodged from the end wall and an ominous crack behind the chimney upstairs showed signs of continuing movement. It was evident that, despite the apparent solidity of the exterior walls, the ballroom wing had been seriously racked by the explosion and that all sorts of problems lurked to bedevil its preservation. The Town of Picton, concerned about the perilous condition of the building, sought its demolition, and now Castle Villeneuve, the home of Picton's first mayor, Philip Low, is but a memory. The tragedy is all the sadder for the new owners, who had had the property for such a short time, were bent on conserving the structure and gradually putting it back in order while they struggled to keep going a restaurant so many visitors to the area and

townspeople too on occasion used to enjoy.

'Tis an ill wind which blows no good, as the old saying goes, and what the explosion revealed helped to explain the architectural history of Castle Villeneuve as well as indicating some rather dubious building practices. These findings will be included in a report to be made to the ACO Quinte Branch. Regrettably the building was in too dangerous a condition and so much damaged that measurements could not be taken. This points out the vulnerability of our landmark buildings to such accidents of fate, while we are left without adequate record: a review of the need for measurement and photography is overdue, not only to safeguard the record of such buildings, but to serve as a guide to LACACs or ACO group who may have to consider alterations to or conservation of such structures.



Damage in ballroom

PJS photo 1986

However, in brief, it was clear that Castle Villeneuve was basically a composition constructed in three stages. The nucleus was a storey-and-a-half five-bay brick structure with centre entrance and rather steeply pitched roof giving a capacious upstairs. The brick-work was even Flemish bond on the end of the building. There was some suggestion that Philip Low may have taken on this building as part of the property. Its interior was treated with a well developed version of the Greek Revival, with eared and tapered trim and bold bevelled fielding to panels reminiscent of the 1840s.

The first drastic change involved the breaking out of the front and back of this house and the erection of a two-storey entrance block to the road front and a two-storey bay over a fully exposed basement overlooking Picton Bay to the back. The roof of these additions was low-pitched, with wide eaves and long slender brackets, very much in the manner of Regency villas/or the early Italianate. It would appear that the octagonal centrepiece with its cupola was added at this time. As a result of these extensive alterations, the additions constructed in brick-filled frame, the whole house appears/to have been refinished in roughcast: the date may be the late 1840s or early 50s.

Then came the final *coup de théâtre*, the ballroom wing with its twin towers which transformed the building into a strangely picturesque pile, something of a cross between a French Château and a Rhenish schloss, with Tudor labels for good measure added to the window heads. This last addition was apparently accompanied by the construction of a similar tower in frame on the opposite front corner to balance the composition. The lower room of this tower was a sunroom in effect and the 1878 atlas view shows a large conservatory behind a two-storey wing at this end of the house: the view is taken from bay behind. A new front vestibule in stone was also constructed at this time, the date possibly the 1860s. It appears that the main block roof was changed to mansard above the new ballroom wing and provide more attic rooms and access to the corner tower just mentioned. The new suite of rooms over the ballroom included an oval bedroom with French windows to a balcony at the end, curved doors to closets in the side walls opposite. Various older trims and doors were re-used here and additional trim made up to finish, very similar but not identical to the original. The ballroom itself was a high-ceilinged room of considerable grandeur, the tower sections forming small alcoves with vaulted ceilings. Although the ballroom wing was constructed in stone there were vestiges under the eaves of a stucco finish, but this seems to have been replaced by a later repointing in dark grey mortar. It would appear that the final transformation occurred in the main block at this time by the removal of the ceiling and replacing this with decorative boarding between the beams, a strapwork decoration rather mediaeval in effect, ornamented with Tudor roses in plaster, this last motif used also in the ballroom ceiling. So this curious and eclectic amalgam obviously reflected the changing taste and aspirations of its owner Philip Low, a lawyer and a mayor betimes. The builder had to perform a few minor structural miracles and a lot of mayhem to accommodate his customer's wishes as the exposure of the building revealed: and the paraphrase the legal profession's maxim -'tis a fool who attempts such a complicated building as his own architect! Or was there, perchance, an architect?

Peter John Stokes

LACAC NEWS

BROCKVILLE

The Brockville Railway Tunnel Historical Background

The Brockville Railway Tunnel is being recommended by the LACAC for designation for both historical and architectural reasons. Started in 1854 and completed in 1860, it was Canada's first railroad tunnel. It formed a critical link in the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Co., an early railroad which was later absorbed into the C.P.R. system. The construction of the tunnel had a great effect on the development of the Brockville waterfront both commercially and topographically. The tunnel, with its large oak doors,

forms a unique monument in Brockville, and is of distinct interest to both the citizens of the area and to visitors.

The Brockville and Ottawa Railway Co. was founded in 1853 to serve the area between the St. Lawrence River and the Ottawa Valley area, and to serve as a feeder line to the much discussed but as yet unbuilt rail link between Montreal and Toronto. The railroad was an ambitious project with the line having a deep water terminal in Brockville, a terminal near Arnprior and a branch line to Perth.

By April, 1854, 60 miles of right-of-way had been cleared with the grading of the line in progress. The idea of a tunnel was considered by some as an unnecessary expense. Notable among the tunnel critics was Supervising Engineer, Samuel Keefer, who contended that a route through the westerly part of town could be built at half the expense, in half the time. However, Sykes, DeBergue and Co. who had the contact for the whole line insisted on the tunnel route.

On Sept. 16, 1854 the cornerstone for Canada's first railroad tunnel was laid by Adiel Sherwood amid much fanfare. John and David Booth, the tunnel sub-contractors, excavated the land between Water and King Streets, and completed 1/3 of the tunnelling north of King Street before funds ran out. Sykes, DeBergue and Co. were in financial trouble, the Booth Co. and the workers had not been paid in some time, and the municipalities were not prepared to advance any more money. When work stopped in 1855 the cost of the tunnel construction was approximately £ 15,000.

New financing was arranged and by December 4, 1856, an advertisement appeared in the Brockville Recorder requesting bids for the completion of the railroad. Hon. George Crawford was sent to England to make arrangements with the firm of Dales and Company, the new general contractors, and to purchase the rails for the line. In Brockville at this time there was considerable discussion on whether the remaining 2/3 of the tunnel should be completed or abandoned in favour of a route around the western edge of the town. In the end the firm of Brown, Row and Company was awarded the sub-contract to finish the tunnel, which they finally did in December, 1860. The railroad had been operating without the use of the tunnel since January 25, 1859.

The large area in front of the southern entrance of the tunnel and what is known as Blockhouse Island were created largely with fill from the excavation and tunnelling. This area housed the southern terminus of this railroad, a roundhouse, repair shed, docks and ware-houses. A siding extended along the south side of Water Street to east of Park Street and served the industries and coal companies located there.

The round-house burned down in 1870, and when the railroad became part of the CPR system in the Brockville waterfront area was no longer the southern terminus of this independent railroad. The tunnel continued to be used for 108 years, serving the line to waterfront industries. The last steam engine went through it in 1954, the last diesel engine in 1969, and the tracks and siding were removed in 1977.

Architectural Description

The Brockville Tunnel is 1730 ft. long with a height of 14 ft. 9 in. and a width of 14 ft.; and it accommodated a single 4 ft. 8½ in. standard gauge track. The cross-sectional view of the tunnel would show it horseshoe-shaped with an arch at the top of slightly bowing sides. The inside surface of 2/3 of the tunnel is lined with rough-coursed stone constructed with holes spaced to prevent the build-up of hydrostatic pressure. The centre section was cut through hard rock and is not lined and has a large air vent in the arch of the tunnel. At the southern end a different arrangement was used, with two smaller vents rising from each side of the ceiling. These two vents are disguised as chimneys on the roof of the Victoria Building.

More noticeable architecturally are the two entrances and their large oak doors used to keep out animals and snow and ice. The southern entrance was constructed in such a way that Water Street passed over it on a very steep grade. The 80ft. long embankments on either side are held by a retaining wall of rough-coursed stone with a protruding pier at each end. These two piers rise above the embankment and for many years have formed the base for light standards and lights similar to those on Victoria Hall. The tunnel arch is framed by two protruding piers with the stone wall rising above the entrance by about 7ft. The north entrance of the tunnel is similar to the centre section of the southern entrance, and is in a rock cut not readily accessible.

The tunnel, in its day, was a major engineering undertaking built in part by Yorkshire men who later moved on to build other railroad tunnels in North America. It is in remarkably good shape, a tribute to its builders. However, there is a large amount calcification the stone, arising from years of water seeping through the joints in the stone. There are a couple of areas where underground springs or leaking watermains have caused damage to the inside wall of the tunnel.

COMING EVENTS

AND NEW PUBLICATIONS

Inventory of the Archive of Ernest Isbell Barott/Guide du fonds Ernest Isbell Barott.

This finding aid facilitates access to the Ernest Barott Archive held by the CCA. It will be of interest to researchers and scholars in various domains of study, but particularly to those with an interest in Canadian architectural history. For information contact:

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Maitland: 'A Very Neat Village Indeed'

Stephen A. Otto, with Richard M. Dumbrille. Erin, Ont.:
The Boston Mills Press, 1985. 142 pages. \$9.95

The Ontario village of Maitland, at Pointe au Baril on the St. Lawrence River near Brockville, was the site of a French shipyard in 1758-9. Twenty-five years later Loyalist veterans of the American Revolution with their families came to the area and were granted land. Settlement at Pointe au Baril was not concentrated, however, and nothing that could be called a village existed there before 1822, when a plot containing ninety lots was laid out as a speculative development and named for Sir Peregrine Maitland, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Soon after, when a large export wheat-milling operation was established nearby, three or four shops, a church and almost three dozen houses sprang up on the townsite. After the mill closed in 1854, the buildings were used again briefly for a distillery about the time of Confederation.

The distinguished architectural historian Eric Arthur once said that towns like Perth and Port Hope, or villages like Niagara-On-the-Lake and Maitland would provide more examples of good early building than Toronto, Hamilton and London together. In their book on Maitland, by far the smallest of these architectural time capsules, Stephen Otto (ACO) and Richard Dumbrille (ACO) have traced the village's early development in four, extensively-illustrated chapters. These lead to the final chapter, which describes forty places of interest in Maitland laid out in the order they can be seen in a walk around the village. Over thirty of these

are existing buildings dating from before 1867, including the important Regency villa, 'Maplehurst', that was constructed by George Longley in 1828. Other buildings are recalled through historic views of carefully researched sketches by Herb Stovel. Modern photographs by Martin Connell round out this rich documentary.

(ed. Stephen Otto has nearly finished the revisions to Eric Arthur's Toronto: No Mean City, which will be reissued by U. of T. Press in 1986.)



Isaac Brock Wells Building (c. 1865.) A boomtown front and large windows on the ground floor gave this building a commercial air when it caught Professor Eric Arthur's eye around 1930. (Ontario Archives.)

An upcoming architecture short list is to be released in mid-January containing 140 items of rare and antiquarian architecture books. It can be obtained free by writing and requesting the architecture short list (1-86.)

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